Attorney Docket No. P65588US1 Application No. 10/627,642

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-25 (canceled).

26 (new): A compound of formula

$$R^{1}O$$
 OR^{2}
 OR^{2}
 OR^{2}

or its optically active derivative, wherein each of R^1 and R^2 is a different protecting group for alcohol selected from the group consisting of a silyl ether-protecting group, a phenyl-substituted methyl-protecting group, and an acetal-protecting group, such that R^2 is removable by a deprotection reaction that does not remove R^1 .

27 (new): The compound according to claim 26 wherein the silyl ether-protecting group is triethylsilyl, tert-butyldimethylsilyl or tert-butyldiphenylsilyl, the phenyl-substituted methyl-

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protecting group is benzyl, p-methoxybenzyl or trityl, and the acetal protecting group is tetrahydropyranyl or methoxymethyl.

28 (new): The compound according to claim 26 wherein R^2 is a phenyl-substituted methyl-protecting group and R^1 is trityl.

29 (new): The compound according to claim 28 wherein R² is benzyl.

30 (new): The compound according to claim 26, wherein R² is tert-butyldimethylsilyl and R¹ is a phenyl-substituted methyl-protecting group.

31 (new): The compound according to claim 29, wherein R¹ is trityl.